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March 23, 2004

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Ex Parte

Filed Electronically

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: CC Docket Nos. 96-45; 01-92
WC Docket No. 04-36
EX PARTE NOTICE**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 22, 2004, the managers from various South Dakota telephone companies, identified in Exhibit A, met with Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and his Legal Advisor Scott Bergmann, to discuss the impact of the Commission's current and pending proceedings on universal service; intercarrier compensation and voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), referenced above, on rural telephone companies.

During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed concerning the Federal-State Joint Board's recent Recommended Decision on Universal Service, including: (1) the primary line restriction; (2) ETC support; (3) the timeframe for FCC action; and (4) the impact on rural investment during the interim. The attendees also discussed the ETC designation processes including: (1) state commission guidelines; (2) enforcement of annual audits; (3) and carrier of last resort obligations.

In addition, the attendees discussed the impact of intercarrier compensation and VOIP on the revenues of rural carriers.

Consistent with section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206, one copy of this notice is being filed electronically in the above-captioned proceedings. Please direct any

questions concerning the above matter to the undersigned at (202) 659-0830.

Sincerely,

/s/ Benjamin H. Dickens, Jr.
Benjamin H. Dickens, Jr.

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Scott Bergmann

Exhibit A

Shirley Bloomfield, National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA)
George Strandell, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Golden West)
Darla Pollman Rogers, Golden West, Venture Communications, Inc. (Venture)
Dennis Law, Sioux Valley Telephone Company
Richard Baye, Golden West
Lee Briggs, Golden West
Bob Hanson, Golden West
Greg Oleson, Golden West
Randy Houdek, Venture
Harry Thomas, Venture
Shirley Cook, Venture
Paul Iron Cloud, Golden West
Dale Larson, Venture
Rod Bowmar, Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc.
Gene Roelle, Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Santel)
Darren Bigge, Santel
Jeff Kramer, Santel
Richard Schiley, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITCI)
Jerry Heiberger, ITCI
Loren Brandell, ITCI
Roxie Kerkulit, ITCI
Helen Thullner, Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc.
Judy Gano, West River Cooperative Telephone Company
Bryan Roth, McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (McCook)
Kevin Erickson, McCook
Chad Mutziger, Midstate Communications
Mark Bahnson, Alliance Telecommunications Corporation (Alliance)
Greg Dean, South Dakota Telecommunications Association, Inc.
Wendell Rye, James Valley Telecommunications (James Valley)
Mark Wattier, James Valley
Kris Frerk, Alliance